

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00040 091610Z

46

ACTION SS-25

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P 090842Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2604

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

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S E C R E T LUSAKA 0040

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARAS 2 AND 5)

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR AO ZA NI

SUBJECT: ZAMBIAN SUSPICIONS ABOUT SOVIET INFLUENCE ON
NIGERIANS REGARDING ANGOLA

1. AS ZAMBIAN PREPARATIONS FOR OAU SUMMIT WENT INTO FINAL STRETCH, KAUNDA AND HIS CLOSEST STATE HOUSE ADVISERS CONFIDED THEIR SERIOUS CONCERNS OVER BASE, SOVIET-INSPIRED MOTIVES BEHIND STRONG NIGERIAN ADVOCACY OF MPLA RECOGNITION AND GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA. ZAMBIANS CONVINCED FMG HEAD OF STATE MUHAMMED IS AFRICAN LEADER CHARGED BY BRITISH LIBERAL PARTY LEADER THORPE AS HAVING ACCEPTED BRIBE FROM SOVIETS TO TAKE PRO-MPLA STAND ON ANGOLA. MOREOVER, ZAMBIANS SAY THEY HAVE STRONG INDICATIONS THAT NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN LUSAKA IS SUSPECTED KGB AGENT.

2. HIGH STATE HOUSE SOURCE WHO BRIEFED ME JAN 8 ON ZAMBIAN POSITION FOR OAU SUMMIT (SEPTTEL) SAID ZAMBIANS HAD BEEN IN DIRECT TOUCH WITH JEREMY THORPE IN LONDON WHO HAD EVIDENCE FROM "IMPECCABLE SOURCE" WHICH IS NONE OTHER THAN BRITISH INTELLIGENCE TO EFFECT MUHAMMED

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ACCEPTED \$30 MILLION PAYMENT FROM SOVIETS TO PUSH PRO-

MPLA RECOGNITION ISSUE THROUGHOUT AFRICA. SAID BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE DUG IN AGAINST REVELATION BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO SERVICE ITSELF AND TO BRITAIN'S RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA.

3. STATE HOUSE SOURCE INTERROGATED ME CLOSELY AND AT LENGTH FOR MY VIEWS ON DR. L. C. FABUNMI, NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN LUSAKA SINCE JULY OF 1973. SAID I FOUND HIM SOMETHING OF A BUFFOON AND ECCENTRIC WITH WHOM IT DIFFICULT TO HAVE A SERIOUS CONVERSATION. SOURCE CONTENDED THIS WAS STUDIED POSE TO COVER HIS ACTIVITIES. ADDED I KNEW SOME CONSIDERED FABUNMI NFTALLY AND EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED SINCE HIS AMERICAN WIFE LEFT HIM IN NIGERIA, TAKING THEIR CHILDREN BACK TO THE STATES. WHILE FABUNMI EFFUSIVE IN PROFESSING DEEP PRO-AMERICAN SENTIMENTS BASED ON STUDY AND EXPERIENCE IN US, I CONSIDERED THESE EXPRESSIONS A BID FALSE BUT HAD NO BASIS FOR GOING AS FAR AS STATE HOUSE SOURCE IN SUSPECTING HE WAS KGB AGENT IN PAY OF SOVIETS.

4. SOURCE SAID GRZ HAD CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT FABUNMI HAD DELIBERATELY MISREPRESENTED KAUNDA'S POSITION ON ANGOLA TO NIGERIAN GOVT AND WHICH WAS NOT RPT NOT THE FIRST TIME, AS ZAMBIANS HAD INTERCEPTED SOME OF NIGERIAN HICOM'S COMMUNICATIONS WHICH HAD DISTORTED AND MISINTERPRETED SOME OF KAUNDA'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

5. AFTER HAVING SPENT SOME 15 MINUTES ON THIS TOPIC, STATE HOUSE SOURCE ASKED WHAT USG KNEW AND COULD SHARE ON THORPE ACCUSATION AND BRITISH POSITION AS WELL AS FABUNMI'S BACKGROUND AND SUSPECTED LINKS WITH SOVIETS. SAID I WOULD PASS ZAMBIAN REQUEST TO WASHINGTON FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION.
WILKOWSKI

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